liberty to pay higher cane price than SMP as per their financial results, subjects to the fulfillment of NABARD's conditipns regarding restructuring of term loans. The first instalment is in line with the payment of SMP under Sugarcane (Control) Order and guidelines of NABARD for the restructuring package.

Protection and Conservation of Ramsar sites

1099. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) how many lakes in kerala are identified as wetland ecosystems under 'Ramsar Sites' along with details thereof;

(b) whether Government have charted out/propose to implement any specific programme to undertake the protection and conservation of those 'Ramsar Sites'; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Three lakes in Kerala, namely, Ashtamudi (esturaine wetland—61,400 hectare,) Sasthamkotta (freshwater wetland—373 hectare), both from Quillon district and Vembanand (backwaters in Cochin—1,51,250 hectare) have been identified as Ramsar sites.

(b) and (c) Various conservation activities have been proposed for conservation of Ashtamudi and Sasthamkotta wetlands which include agro-forestry, weed control, fisheries development, pollution abatement, plantation, joint forest management and education awareness. After receiving Management Action Plans for various activities from State Govt, for these identified wetlands, an amount of Rs. 64.45 lakhs and Rs. 36.85 lakhs respectively have been released for Ashtamudi and Sasthamkotta wetlands during 2001—2005.

Increase in hazardous waste units

1100. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an increase of hazardous waste units in the country and there is no proper check on them;

(b) whether the State Pollution Control Boards and Pollution Control Centres have been asked to submit their reports about implementation of Government order on hazardous waste units; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by Government to check the spread of hazardous waste units in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) of Union Territories have carried out inventories in accordance with the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended. It is observed that there is an increase in the number of hazardous waste generating units in the country. The main reason for the increase in the number of hazardous waste generating units in the country is due to the amendments issued to the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 in the year 2003, according to which the classification of hazardous waste generating units has been increased from the earlier 18 categories to 36 industrial processes and the corresponding waste streams. The purpose of increasing the categories of hazardous waste generating processes from 18 to 36 is to bring all possible hazardous waste generating processes under the purview of the Rules, so that the waste generated by them is effectively managed by the concerned SPCBs/PCCs.

(b) and (c) All the SPCBs and the PCCs of Union Territories have been asked to carryout the above inventories on hazardous waste generating units and the quantities of hazardous waste generation in accordance with the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003 and also to submit the inventory reports to the Central Pollution Control Board. The Government have notified the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Amendment Rules, 2003 and also to submit the inventory reports to the Central Pollution Control Board. The Government have notified the Hazardous Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended, to regulate and properly manage the hazardous waste generated in the country as well as the wastes imported into the country for recycling purposes. Rule-5 of these Rules provides that every occupier handling, or a recycler recycling hazardous waste shall obtain authorization from the respective State Pollution Control Boards or Pollution Control Committees for collection, reception, treatment, storage and disposal of hazardous wastes. In addition, such units are also required to obtain necessary consents under the Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Air (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.